

REMARKS

Applicant has now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of July 28, 2005.

Reconsideration of the Application is requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-11 remain in the application.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to particularly point out that the tongue is moved toward the body such that the shoulder means moves toward the main body far enough to break contact with the abutment means.

In particular, claims 1 and 2 now recite:

"an actuator having an attachment portion and an operative portion, the attachment portion being adapted to mount the operative portion so that the operative portion extends adjacent the tongue and projects out of the recess far enough to be transversely manipulated so as to move the tongue toward said main body such that the shoulder means moves toward said main body far enough to break contact with the abutment means".

Thus, the tongue is moved toward the main body such that the shoulder means moves toward the main body far enough to break contact with the abutment means.

Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Higgins, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,628,648). The claims, as amended, are believed to fully distinguish over the cited reference.

United States Patent No. 5,628,648 to Higgins, Jr. et al. discloses an electrical connector position assurance device that has a locking mechanism to prevent inadvertent disconnection. In rejecting the claims, the Examiner asserts that the cited reference includes a tongue, identified by the numeral 24 in the Figures, that includes a shoulder means. Although the Examiner has identified the shoulder means as numeral 18, Applicant believes that the Examiner intended to identify the shoulder means as reference numeral 26. The shoulder (26) comes into contact with an abutment means which the Examiner has identified as numeral 28.

Only a portion of the tongue of the Higgins reference is moved toward the main

body while another portion of the tongue moves away from the main body. This is because the tongue pivots within the bridge 36. In contrast with the amended claims of the present application, the latch of the Higgins reference (which the Examiner has equated with the shoulder means of the present application) moves away from the main body when the opposite end of the tongue moves toward the main body. The shoulder means of the Higgins Jr. et al. reference must move away from the main body in order to break contact with the abutment means. Thus, the actuator is not "transversely manipulated so as to move the tongue toward said main body such that the shoulder means moves toward said main body far enough to break contact with the abutment means", as recited in claims 1 and 2 of the present application.

It is therefore believed that claims 1 and 2 fully distinguish over the cited reference. Since the remainder of the claims include all of the limitations of one of claims 1 and 2, these claims are also believed to fully distinguish over the cited reference.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-11) are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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28 October 2005
Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

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